

**441—200.3(600) Application.** Persons wishing to apply to adopt a child through the department shall use Form 470-0771, Application for Adoption. An application for adoption shall only be accepted for children who are under the guardianship of the department.

**200.3(1) Limitations.** No applications shall be accepted or approved in any department office for the adoption of an easy-to-place child. Those applicants shall be referred to private child-placing agencies. Exceptions to this rule may be made for relatives of a child under the guardianship of the department or foster parents applying to adopt a child with whom the child has a significant relationship.

*a.* Foster parents. Foster parents shall be given consideration for selection as the adoptive family for a child in the foster parent's care who is legally available for adoption if the child has been in the foster parent's care for one year or longer, or the child has a significant relationship with the family.

*b.* Relatives. A relative who is within the fourth degree of consanguinity shall be given consideration for selection as the adoptive placement for a child who is legally available for adoption if the child has a significant relationship with the relative, or the child is aged 14 or over and elects adoption by the relative.

**200.3(2) Procedures.** An application for a special needs child shall be accepted by any department office. If a family assessment and home study cannot be begun by a department worker within 90 days, a referral shall be made to purchase a home study from a provider with whom the department has a purchase of service contract within available funding. Prior to completion of a home study, applicants shall complete Form 470-0771, Foster Care and Adoption Home Study Packet, and ensure that Form 470-0720, Physician's Report for Foster and Adoptive Parents, is completed by their family physician.